

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office action dated December 15, 2006. Claims 32-34, 36-48, 52-56, and 58-65 are pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 48 and 60 were allowed, claims 32-34, 40, 41, 43-45, 47, 52, 53, 56, 58, and 61 were rejected, and claims 36-39, 42, 46, 54, 55, 59, and 62-65 were objected to. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 32-34, 40-41, 43-45, 47, 52, 53, 56, 58, and 61, and amended claims 36-39, 42, 46, 48, 54, 55, and 63. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 48 and 60 are allowable. Applicants have placed claim 48 into independent form. As claim 60 depends from claim 48, both claims 48 and 60 should now be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to claims 36-39, 42, 46, 54, 55, 59, and 62-65 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended claims 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 46, 54, 55, and 63 and placed them in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 32, as needed. Thus, claims 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 46, 54, 55, and 63 should now be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, as claim 59 depends from claim allowable 46, claim 61 depends from claim allowable 54, claim 62 depends from allowable claim 55, and claims 64 and

65 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 63, claims 59, 61, 62, 64, and 65 similarly should be in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 32-34, 40-41, 43-45, 47, 52, 53, 56, 58, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Licha et al. Without acknowledging or acquiescing in the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 32-34, 40-41, 43-45, 47, 52, 53, 56, 58, and 61 without prejudice, and suggest that the rejection with respect to those claims is rendered moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

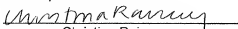
Applicants respectfully suggest that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact Anton Skaugset (Reg. No. 38,617), or the undersigned attorney of record, both at 503-224-6655.

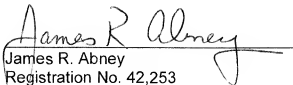
Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.

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